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Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 14th and 46th meetings, from 4 to 6 and on 15 October and 18 November 2004. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 95 jointly with items 93 and 94. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.1-5,14 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/59/164).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 4 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the delegations of Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 October, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

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7. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the Under-Secretary-General, in which the delegations of the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Cuba and Sri Lanka took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

8. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

9. At the same meeting the representative of Senegal posed a question, to which the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit responded (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14 and Rev.1

10. At the 14th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Azerbaijan, Belarus, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/59/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

"*Recalling also* Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, entitled 'Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002', in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

"1. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals consider the situation of older persons, ensure the integration of ageing issues into policies and programmes and provide opportunities for older persons to participate in decision-making and other activities;

"2. *Calls* on Governments and the United Nations system agencies and organizations, as well as the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons are adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects, especially at the country level;

"3. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and in this connection, encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

"4. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries, particularly in

developing countries, including international research, with a view to promoting international research coordination, exchanging knowledge and supporting policy responses to ageing;

"5. *Invites* the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their programmes of work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

"6. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to include in its agenda the situation of older women, particularly those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

"7. *Encourages* those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and requests the Commission for Social Development to clarify the role of the regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the content, format and date of its global review and appraisal exercise;

"8. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1, and requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session;

"9. *Reiterates* its request to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assign full-time focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, particularly through appropriate mainstreaming action;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

"11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At its 46th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14 and Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a revised draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/59/L.14/Rev.1). Subsequently, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Monaco, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino and Turkey joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 14).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002",[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake a review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

1. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] take into account the situation of older persons;

2. *Calls upon* Governments and the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandate, and encourages the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons are adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects;

3. *Invites* Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels;

4. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[4] and in this connection, encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

5. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries;

6. *Invites* the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

8. *Encourages* those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

9. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1,[2] and in this context requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to strengthen the capacity of the focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular through appropriate mainstreaming action;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests that it be forwarded to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[5] A/59/164.